

OF THE STATE OF NEW-JERSEY.

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C H A P. DCXXXVII.

An Act to prevent Routs, Riots and tumultuous Assemblies.

Sec. 1. **B**E IT ENACTED by the Council and General Assembly of this State, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the publication of this act, if any persons, to the number of twelve or more, being armed with clubs, guns, swords, or other weapons, or if any number of persons consisting of thirty or more, shall be unlawfully, routously, riotously, or tumultuously assembled, any justice of the peace, sheriff, under-sheriff, or constable of the county where such assembly shall be, shall, among the rioters, or as near to them as he can safely come, command silence while proclamation is making, and shall, openly and with loud voice, make or cause to be made proclamation in these or the like words:

Routs, riots,
&c. how suppressed.

State of New-Jersey. By virtue of an act of this state, intituled, "An act to prevent routs, riots and tumultuous assemblies," I am directed to charge and command all persons being here assembled immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, upon the pains and penalties contained in the said act. God save the state.

Proclamation
to be made;

And all justices of the peace, sheriffs, under-sheriffs and constables, within the limits of their respective jurisdictions, are hereby authorized, empowered and required, on notice or knowledge of any such unlawful, routous, riotous, or tumultuous assembly, to resort to the place where such unlawful, routous, riotous, or tumultuous assembly shall be, and there to make or cause to be made proclamation in manner aforesaid.

by a justice, &c.

2. And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if such persons, so unlawfully, routously, riotously and tumultuously assembled as aforesaid, shall, after proclamation made, or attempted to be made, in manner aforesaid, continue together and not disperse themselves within one hour, then it shall and may be lawful to and for every justice of the peace, sheriff, under-sheriff, or constable of the county where such assembly shall be, and to and for such other person and persons as shall be commanded to be assisting unto any such justice, sheriff, under-sheriff, or constable (who are hereby respectively authorized and empowered to command all the citizens of this state to be assisting to them therein) to seize and apprehend, and they are hereby required to seize and apprehend such persons so unlawfully, routously, riotously and tumultuously continuing together, after proclamation made, or attempted to be made, as aforesaid, and forthwith to carry the persons so apprehended before one or more of the justices of the peace of the county where such persons shall be so apprehended, in order to their being proceeded against for such their offences according to law; and if the persons so unlawfully, routously, riotously and tumultuously assembled, or any of them, shall happen to be killed,

Rioters continuing together after proclamation made,

justices, &c. may command assistance to seize them,

that they may be proceeded against according to law.

ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

wounded or hurt, in the dispersing, seizing or apprehending, or endeavouring to disperse, seize or apprehend them, by reason of their resisting the persons so dispersing, seizing or apprehending, or endeavouring to disperse, seize or apprehend them, then every such justice of the peace, sheriff, under-sheriff, or constable, and all and singular person and persons being aiding or assisting to them or any of them, shall be held guiltless, and be absolutely indemnified and discharged.

Persons opposing or hurting a person who is about to proclaim, how to be punished.

3. *And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That if any person or persons do or shall, with force and arms, wilfully and knowingly oppose, obstruct, or in any manner wilfully and knowingly let, hinder or hurt any person or persons that shall begin to proclaim, or go to proclaim according to the proclamation hereby directed to be made, whereby such proclamation shall not be made, that then every such opposing, obstructing, letting, hindering or hurting such person or persons so beginning, or going to make such proclamation as aforesaid, shall be adjudged a misdemeanor, and be punished by fine or imprisonment, or both, or by fine or imprisonment at hard labour, or both, the fine not to exceed one hundred dollars, nor the imprisonment six months.

Persons riotously continuing together one hour after proclamation, how to be punished.

4. *And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That all persons who, for the space of one hour after proclamation made, or attempted to be made as aforesaid, shall unlawfully, routously, riotously and tumultuously continue together, to the number of twelve or more, if armed, or of thirty or more, if unarmed, as aforesaid, then such persons so offending shall be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction, shall be punished by fine or imprisonment, or both, or by fine or imprisonment at hard labour, or both, the fine not to exceed one thousand dollars, nor the imprisonment three years.

This act to be read at the opening of the court, and at the annual town-meetings.

5. *And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That this act shall be read at the opening of every court of general quarter sessions of the peace by the clerk of the said court, and at the annual meeting of each precinct, township and corporation, by the respective clerks thereof.

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Passed at Trenton, February 24, 1797.

C H A P. DCXXXVIII.

An Act concerning Inns and Taverns.

SECT. 1. **B**E IT ENACTED *by the Council and General Assembly of this State, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the courts of general quarter sessions of the peace in and for the several counties of this State, shall be, and they are hereby au-